

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 SIG-03 DLOS-09
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TO AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0000
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PP, EFIS

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PETER WILSON OF PNG

REF: A) PORT MORESBY 1252, B) PORT MORESBY 1302

1. DEPT OFFICIALS MET ON AUGUST 21 WITH PETER WILSON,
CHIEF FISHERIES OFFICER, PNG, TO DISCUSS SOUTH PACIFIC
REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (SPFRO) AND RELATED MATTERS.
DISCUSSION WAS INFORMAL AND BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT VIEWS
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WERE PERSONAL, RATHER THAN THOSE OF OFFICIAL POLICY.
WILSON REFERRED BRIEFLY TO RECENT LICENSING PROBLEMS (REFS
A AND B), SAYING THAT HE THOUGHT BOTH OLEWALE AND CHAN NOW
UNDERSTOOD U.S. POSITION AND THAT HE WAS IN THE U.S.
SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS AN AGREEMENT WITH STARKIST ALLOW-
ING THEM TO FISH FOR TUNA IN PNG WATERS. WE STRESSED THAT
THIS TYPE OF AGREEMENT (PNG WITH INDIVIDUAL U.S. COMPANIES)

WAS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE TO USG, AND THAT WE CONSIDERED D DECISION TO BUY LICENSES WITHIN CONTEXT OF SUCH AGREEMENTS A COMMERCIAL DECISION. WILSON MENTIONED AMERICAN TUNABOAT ASSOCIATION AND WE REMINDED HIM THAT ATA IS BASICALLY A TRADE/LOBBY GROUP, AND NOT AN ADMINISTERING ORGANIZATION.

2. WILSON ASKED FOR VIEWS ON THE INTERIM SPFRO, SAYING HE SAW IT AS A DATA GATHERING ORGAN UNTIL THE COMMISSION WAS FORMED AND HAD TIME TO ESTABLISH ITSELF, WHEREUPON IT MIGHT ASSUME A MORE ACTIVE ROLE. DEPT OFFICIALS CONCURRED THAT INTERIM AGENCY SHOULD BE A TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION, AND THAT PERMANENT AGENCY COULD WELL DEVELOP A BROADER ROLE, ALTHOUGH WE STILL BELIEVED ITS MAJOR FUNCTION WAS AS A SECRETARIAT AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION. POLITICAL DECISIONS MUST BE LEFT TO THE CONFERENCE.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, DEPT OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL MONTHS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT AND PASSAGE OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION. SINCE CONGRESS WILL BE WILL BE IN RECESS AFTER THE EXPECTED SIGNATURE OF THE SPFRO CONVENTION UNTIL JANUARY, FINAL RATIFICATION CANNOT BE EXPECTED UNTIL LATE SUMMER 1979. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT GIVEN THE HUGE BACKLOG OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, EVEN THAT PREDICTION MAY BE OPTIMISTIC. DEPT CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICIALS STRESSED DESIRE THAT FIRST MEETING OF CONFERENCE BE HELD ONLY AFTER USG HAD RATIFIED CONVENTION. WILSON INDICATED UNDERSTANDING, AND STATED HIS BELIEF THAT SOMETHING WOULD BE WORKED OUT.

4. WILSON REITERATED PNG SUPPORT FOR ROBERT KEARNEY AS INTERIM DIRECTOR, BUT SUPPOSED THAT ONCE THE ORGANIZATION WERE MORE ESTABLISHED, A MORE "POLITICAL TYPE" MIGHT BE NEEDED, WITH A "TECHNICAL OR SCIENTIFIC TYPE" IN THE SECOND POSITION. DEPT OFFICIALS INFORMED WILSON THAT USG HAS NO PREFERENCE FOR INTERIM DIRECTOR, EXCEPT THAT THE SELECTEE SHOULD BE WELL QUALIFIED. WHILE NO OFFICIAL VIEW ON SECOND POINT WAS EXPRESSED, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT USG WOULD PROBABLY PREFER A TECHNICAL OR SCIENTIFIC TYPE TO HEAD THE PERMANENT AGENCY.

5. THE HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES COMMITTEE ENVISAGED BY THE CONVENTION WAS DISCUSSED, AND BOTH SIDES AGREED IT WOULD BECOME AN IMPORTANT PART OF SPFRO. WILSON EXPRESSED NO VIEW WHEN ASKED HOW FUTURE DECISIONS OF HMS COMMITTEE MIGHT BE BEST IMPLEMENTED, OR WHAT HE FORESAW THE ROLE OF IT TO BE. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE HMS COMMITTEE WAS

A LOGICAL STEPPING STONE TO FULL SIGNATORY STATUS FOR JAPAN, KOREA, AND TAIWAN.

E SUBJECT OF FUNDING WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY. WILSON

6. THE SUBJECT OF FUNDING WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY. WILSON WAS INFORMED THAT ACTION ON THE \$75,000 CONTRIBUTION TO SPFRO WAS ALMOST COMPLETED. WE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT A FORMULA FOR FUNDING BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WOULD

BE NECESSARY ULTIMATELY. WILSON SUGGESTED POSSIBLE FUNDING BY THE UN OR UNDP, AND WE EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT SUCH APPROPRIATIONS COULD BE MADE FREE FROM POLITICAL PRESSURES, BUT THAT A METHOD COULD PERHAPS BE DEvised THAT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES.

7. THE FUTURE SPFRO LICENSING SYSTEM WAS DISCUSSED AND BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE SPFRO COULD ACTUALLY ISSUE LICENSES, WITH WILSON SPECIFYING THAT INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WOULD NEED TO RETAIN ULTIMATE AUTHORITY TO GRANT OR DENY LICENSES.

8. WILSON ALSO SAID THAT PNG WAS CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT WITH STARKIST, BUT DID NOT OFFER DETAILS. LASTLY, WILSON EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE LOCATION OF THE PERMANENT SPFRO HEADQUARTERS AT HONIARA, POINTING TO BAD COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, AND SUPPORT FACILITIES. HE INDICATED THAT PNG WOULD NOT IMMEDIATELY CHALLENGE THE SITE LOCATION, BUT SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT PNG WAS SEEKING SUPPORT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO QUESTION THE HONIARA LOCATION. DEPT POINTED OUT THAT DECISION WAS A CONSENSUS ONE, AND THAT GSI OBVIOUSLY PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON IT. WHILE WE UNDERSTOOD PNG'S CONCERNS, WE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ATTEMPTING TO REOPEN ISSUE OR EVEN QUIET LOBBYING COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT AFFECT RESOLUTION OF MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES, WHICH WE WOULD FIND DISTURBING.

9. DURING WILSON'S VISIT TO U.S., DEPT OFFICIALS WERE CONTACTED BY BOTH STARKIST AND VANCAMP REPS REQUESTING DEPT VIEW ON PNG POSITION THAT THESE COMPANIES SHOULD ACCEPT LANGUAGE IN LICENSES OR CONTRACT AMOUNTING TO THE COMPANIES RECOGNITION OF PNG JURISDICTION OVER TUNA. DEPT RESPONSE WAS THAT THIS WAS A BUSINESS DECISION, WOULD NOT AFFECT US GOVT LAW OR POLICY, BUT OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL IN GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT DEALINGS. CHRISTOPHER

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